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MILWAUKEE COUNTY WORKING TO ENSURE SENIORS CAN EXERCISE VOTING RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW VOTER PHOTO ID LAW

Milwaukee – The Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA) in collaboration with Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele will sponsor an educational event to inform seniors about the new Voter Photo ID Law and how to obtain a free Wisconsin State ID for the purpose of voting. The Voter Education Event for Seniors will occur on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 am at the at the Italian Community Conference Center, 631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202. 300-400 seniors, family members, caregivers, and personnel from provider and community agencies are expected to attend.

The morning event will kick-off at 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. where Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele will stress the importance of ensuring seniors are prepared to vote in 2012. Abele will also discuss the critical need for older adults to be prepared and have the proper identification needed to vote on Election Day. As part of the kick-off, Milwaukee County District Attorney John T. Chisholm will share information about voter fraud and prosecutions.

Immediately following the County Executive's remarks, a panel presentation will be held inclusive of the Government Accountability Board (GAB), Department of Transportation (DOT), Milwaukee County Election Commission, City of Milwaukee Election Commission, Disability Rights Wisconsin, and AARP. Participants will be able to ask questions

Resource tables will be hosted by local, state and national agencies including, but not limited to the MCDA Aging Resource Center, Milwaukee County Disability Resource Center, NAACP, Interfaith Neighborhood Outreach Program, GAB, League of Women Voters, AARP, and Legal Action of Wisconsin.

Seniors, family members, caregivers, and staff from provider and community agencies are invited to attend. The morning will serve up a free hot breakfast, informational resources, and more importantly education on how to be informed and prepared to vote in the upcoming elections.

Stephanie Sue Stein, Director of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging said, "Unless older adults are familiar with the new photo ID voting requirements, some will be confused and frustrated and when election day comes, quite possibly unable to cast their vote. At this event, we will explain the changes and what they need to do to be prepared to vote. Additionally, seniors will learn how to obtain a free Wisconsin State ID for the purpose of voting, which is extremely important information."

Space is limited and Registration is required. To register, call 414-289-5950 or email agingevents@milwaukeecounty.com. Registered participants will automatically receive a free Voter ID Checklist Envelope.

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